



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
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January 31, 2008

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB 2352 - RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Departments of Health and Human Services (DHS).

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF SB 2352**. The purpose of the bill is to direct DHS to establish a three-year pilot project, beginning with Fiscal Year 2008-2009, to conduct and expand asset building classes statewide to serve individuals with disabilities and parents of children with a disability in developing skills.

The Council is not familiar with the assets building classes offered by DHS. However, we see this as a bridge for using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds and State funds to enhance capacity of individuals with disabilities and parents of children with a disability in developing skills for navigating the service delivery system, career development, increasing computer literacy, etc.

We defer to DHS for the cost of establishing and implementing the three-year pilot project. We note that this bill is the same as SB 2737 on the same agenda. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony supporting the intent of SB 2352.

Sincerely,

Wyanette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 31, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2352 RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR
NEEDY FAMILIES**
Hearing: Monday, January 31, 2008; 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The directs the Department of Human Services to establish a three-year pilot project; beginning with fiscal year 2008-2009, to conduct and expand asset building classes statewide to serve individuals with disabilities and parents of children with a disability in developing skills.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services supports the intent of this bill but has concerns that the appropriation needed to implement this bill may adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget. The Department is also concerned that the bill has no provision to evaluate and inventory the existing services to determine if there is a need to establish new services for this population.

The Department currently already spends millions in TANF funds and State dollars for support, evaluation and training of this target population. This bill's requirement to assign additional TANF funds to these programs may result in cutting existing programs that the Department funds through TANF to assist needy families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.